

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 05726 221701Z
ACTION PA-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00
/028 W

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O 221654Z FEB 78 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5814
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS CAIRO 05726

USDEL NO. 012

DEPT FOR S/PRS, PASS NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI AND WHITE
HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL

USIA FOR IPS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (ATHERTON, ALBERT L.) EG XF
SUBJECT: ATHERTON ARRIVAL STATEMENT

FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY
ATHERTON'S STATEMENT TO THE PRESS UPON ARRIVAL AT CAIRO
AIRPORT FEBRUARY 22, 1978.

ATHERTON: WELL, LET ME SAY FIRST HOW HAPPY I AM TO BE
BACK IN EGYPT. MRS. ATHERTON AND I HAVE SO MANY OLD
FRIENDS HERE AND WE ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD TO COMING
BACK AND TO SEEING THEM. SINCE I LEFT CAIRO THE LAST
TIME, OF COURSE, PRESIDENT SADAT HAS HAD A VERY IMPORTANT
VISIT TO WASHINGTON, VERY IMPORTANT TALKS WITH PRESIDENT
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CARTER. I'M HERE TO HELP TO BUILD ON THOSE TALKS, TO
CONTINUE THE EFFORTS TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A DECLARATION
OF PRINCIPLES FOR A COMPREHENSIVE MIDDLE EAST PEACE
SETTLEMENT. WHEN PRESIDENT SADAT WAS IN WASHINGTON,
PRESIDENT CARTER PLEDGED THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD
REDOUBLE ITS EFFORTS AND I AM HERE TO CARRY OUT THAT
PLEDGE AND TO HELP MAINTAIN THE ALL-IMPORTANT CONTINUITY

OF THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING
TOMORROW WITH FOREIGN MINISTER KAMEL TO DISCUSS CONCRETE
IDEAS WITH REGARD TO THE DECLARATION WHICH WE HAVE FROM
BOTH SIDES. I WILL THEN BE RETURNING TO ISRAEL TO
CONTINUE THE TALKS AND, I ASSUME, RETURNING HERE AGAIN
AFTER THAT. SO THIS IS PART OF A PROCESS, AN ONGOING
PROCESS. I SENSE A DETERMINATION ON THE PART OF ISRAEL
AND OF EGYPT, CERTAINLY A DETERMINATION WHICH WE SHARE,
TO SPARE NO EFFORT TO MAKE PROGRESS IN THESE TALKS.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH. EILTS

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